

# Green Lodging News

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## Creating an Environmental Policy Statement

An environmental policy is your declaration of commitment to the environment and green initiatives. It provides a unifying vision of environmental principles that will guide the actions of employees and management. The policy

Green Lodging News is a publication targeted toward Michigan's hospitality facilities. It is a service of the Energy Office, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth. If you are interested in subscribing to the monthly newsletter, please contact [jhsarve@michigan.gov](mailto:jhsarve@michigan.gov).

### Green Tip of the Month

Implement eco-friendly computer usage!

- Set office computer monitors to 25% power after the screen saver has been active for a set time period (about 3-4 minutes).
- Turn off computers overnight. Turning off one PC (with an average load of 200 Watts) each night and on weekends will save an average of \$60 annually.

serves as the framework for setting environmental objectives and targets, and will be brought to life in your plans and business activities. The following suggestions are provided to assist you in creating an environmental policy statement appropriate for your facility.

### Conduct a Gaps Analysis

This step is designed to help you review how your company currently handles environmental concerns, and compares current practice with where you would like to be. Through discussions with employees representing different functions of your facility, you can explore alternatives to current practice and improve both environmental management and cost

savings for your facility.

### Create a List of Issues

Make a list of general environmental concerns that could be addressed in your environmental policy statement. It is important to think through which commitments your company will be capable of addressing. Don't include commitments in your policy that the company will not be able to carry out. Consider the following:

- Working to achieve pollution prevention
- Reducing solid waste
- Making changes to the chemicals used by your facility
- Introducing an environmentally preferred purchasing program

### Set Boundaries

Decide whether your policy will include activities beyond internal operations, such as supplier environmental performance or customer product use. You may want to remove issues from your list that do not fall within your boundaries.

### Review Gaps Analysis

You will want to review your gaps analysis in six months, and again in one year, to track your facility's progress in developing its environmental policy and make any necessary changes.

*For more information on environmental policies, consult the Green Lodging Michigan Web site.*

## Pilot Update

Last month was very active for Green Lodging Michigan and its pilot participants. Much feedback was provided to help improve the certification process.

Two focus group meetings were held in April, one in Lansing and one in Traverse City. The pilot facilities that participated in the focus groups provided

great feedback regarding on how GLM can be a more user-friendly and respectable program. Each suggestion was taken back to the GLM committee for discussion.

GLM also met with Angela Carrier from the Michigan Lake-to-Lake Bed & Breakfast Association for suggestions on how to improve the program for B&Bs.

All participants in the meetings shared great ideas

Presently, the self-assessment checklist is being revised and marketing materials are being prepared. The committee hopes to launch the program this fall.



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